THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Saturday, the 8th March 1958.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Allowances to Headmasters of Local Board Schools.

* 55 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that different rates of dearness and house-rent allowances are paid to Headmasters of Secondary Schools by various local boards; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Finance) : (*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information on the points.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I submit, Sir, that my original question was about the duty allowance of Headmasters and not this allowance?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, this question relates to dearness and house-rent allowances. So far as dearness allowance is concerned, the teachers must be getting it and the Government are subsidising it. There is no question of subsidising house-rent allowance. This depends upon the capacity of the local bodies concerned. Some local bodies must be giving this house-rent allowance, and it may be that certain other local bodies are not able to give this house-rent allowance.

Health Cess.

* 56 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to levy a health cess; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Was this question discussed at the State Ministers' Conference and, if so, what conclusions were arrived at?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It was once discussed at the State Ministers' Conference at Ranchi. Then it was deferred. It was again discussed at Bangalore. No definite decisions were taken.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Why was not this proposition considered at the State level?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Personally I am against this. But I do not know whether the hon. Member is desirous of having this.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know, Sir, if the rules permit a private Member to bring in a Bill to levy a health cess, and if the hon. Member were to introduce such a Bill, whether the Government would accept it?

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : I have no intention of introducing such a Bill.

Pension to Secondary Grade Teachers.

* 57 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that secondary grade teachers of over 30 years' service, who retired after 1st April 1955, have not been considered eligible for pension; and

(*b*) if so, the reason therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Finance) : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, as I have got information that in many cases teachers are denied pension at the departmental level, will the Government kindly see that such cases are scrutinised under rule 10 (*b*) of the pension rules and are awarded pension?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : This order about pensions to teachers came into effect from 1st April 1955. Under this order, all teachers who have put in 30 years' service and retired at 55 years or 60 years of age, according as they are local body teachers or aided school teachers, are entitled to pension. But if there had been break of service on account of resignation, then they will not be entitled to pension. This is the position. Only in such circumstances pension would have been denied to them. But if the hon. Member would bring to the notice of the Government specific cases, they would be looked into.